

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA  
AUGUSTA DIVISION

MARION DENNIS MURRAY, SR.,

Petitioner,

v.

AIMEE SMITH, Warden,

Respondent.

CV 120-088

## ORDER

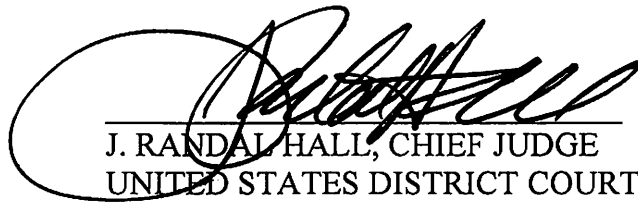
After a careful, *de novo* review of the file, the Court concurs with the Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation, to which objections have been filed. (Doc. no. 6.) The only portion of the objections for which comment is necessary is the allegation both assigned judges should be disqualified because they have allegedly represented one of the parties. (Id. at 3.) This is false, and neither assigned judge has a conflict of interest. Accordingly, the Court **OVERRULES** the objections, **ADOPTS** the Report and Recommendation of the Magistrate Judge as its opinion, **DENIES AS MOOT** the motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*, (doc. no. 2), and **DISMISSES** this petition filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254.

A prisoner seeking relief under § 2254 must obtain a certificate of appealability (“COA”) before appealing the denial of his application for a writ of habeas corpus. This

Court “must issue or deny a certificate of appealability when it enters a final order adverse to the applicant.” Rule 11(a) to the Rules Governing Section 2254 Proceedings. This Court should grant a COA only if the prisoner makes a “substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.” 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). For the reasons set forth in the Report and Recommendation, and in consideration of the standards enunciated in Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 482-84 (2000), Petitioner has failed to make the requisite showing. Accordingly, the Court **DENIES** a COA in this case.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, because there are no non-frivolous issues to raise on appeal, an appeal would not be taken in good faith, and Petitioner is not entitled to appeal *in forma pauperis*. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3).

Upon the foregoing, the Court **CLOSES** this civil action.

SO ORDERED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020, at Augusta, Georgia.

  
J. RANDAL HALL, CHIEF JUDGE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

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<sup>1</sup>“If the court denies a certificate, the parties may not appeal the denial but may seek a certificate from the court of appeals under Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 22.” Rule 11(a) to the Rules Governing Section 2254 Proceedings.